

**Minutes of the Joint Meeting of the
Executive & Exhibition Committees
Of the Colonial Charter 350th Anniversary Commission
Fox Point Community Library
90 Ives Street, Providence, RI
November 19, 2012**

1. Commissioner Jonathon Stevens called the meeting to order at 10:05 A.M. with the following members in Attendance: Ted Sanderson – RI Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission; Morgan Grefe – RI Historical Society; Steve Lubar - John Nicholas Brown Center, Brown University; Paul Caranci – Office of Secretary of State Ralph Mollis; Ken Yellis – Independent Curator; Eric Hertfelder – private citizen; Jonathan Stevens –Office of Governor Lincoln Chafee; Jess Unger (staff)– Office of Governor Lincoln Chafee; Betty Capozzi – State House Restoration Society; James Hall – Providence Preservation Society; Roseanna Gorham – private citizen; Ruth Taylor – Newport Historical Society; Gwenn Stearn – State Archivist.

The following Invited guests were also in attendance: Brian Jones – Brian Jones Design; Jess Powers – Assistant to Barnaby Evans; Barnaby Evans – WaterFire; Alice Boss-Altman – WaterFire boardmember

2. Barnaby Evans, the creator of WaterFire, presented a proposal to bring WaterFire to Washington D.C. in 2013 as part of the 350th Anniversary celebration. He noted that the Washington WaterFire

could possibly take place in the 2nd half of May, two weeks before the first lighting in Providence, noting that the idea:

- a. Creates an opportunity for RI to be on the national stage
- b. Presents an event that is a “departure point for how to advance this dialogue” (on the RI 1663 Charter and its significance). The event plans to highlight the anniversaries of several other events, including the 150th anniversary of the Gettysburg Address, the 100th anniversary of a suffragette march on Washington, and the 50th anniversary of Martin Luther King Jr.’s “I Have a Dream” speech
- c. Includes several other elements intended to extend and deepen the impact of the WaterFire event, including the collection of impactful quotations for publication, chartering the Sloop Providence to travel from Rhode Island to Washington D.C., releasing carrier pigeons to deliver the impactful quotations to the 50 state capitols nationwide, and passing the flame along the tidal basin.
- d. Offers an excellent opportunity to increase media coverage of the Charter celebration.
- e. Suggests the possibility that the event will serve as a source of national healing.
- f. Captured the interest of the National Park Service which must respond within 30 days of the official submission of the application.
- g. Involves the solicitation of funds (which Mr. Evans has begun) and that those efforts could be beneficial for fundraising efforts of the commission.

Chairman Ted Sanderson wants to ensure that there is a Providence element of the program, so that Rhode Islanders can witness this as

well. A discussion ensued regarding the possibility of a WaterFire in Rhode Island following the one in DC. Mr. Evans will look into the details of that.

3. Brian Jones (of Brian Jones Design) shared the design work he has developed for the State House Charter Room and hallway. He presented several images that define the Visitor's Center through signage and graphics, including the color scheme suggested for the hall. One image depicts the State House hallway painted with diagonal lines to draw the eye towards the Charter Room. He also suggested the use of a blade sign to be placed above the Charter room door. His plan depicts a design for the large wall that will greet visitors upon first entering the Charter room, and suggests a descriptive panel above and beside the smaller exhibition cases (which can be easily changed each time the display is altered). Mr. Jones also drafted, for presentation purposes, a sample brochure "takeaway" with interesting elements of the document highlighted. Commissioner Steve Lubar pointed out a need for signage throughout the State House, while noting the need to make more curatorial decisions in advance of further design work.

4. After the guests left the meeting a lively discussion ensued among Commissioners regarding the two presentations noting the following observations:

a. There is a positive potential in the WaterFire presentation and the members expressed a desire to be associated with it as we await issues and questions to be identified and resolved.

b. There is a concern that WaterFire will dominate the efforts for

Charter celebration fundraising.

c. Thought needs to be given on how best to highlight Rhode Island if we support the effort of Barnaby Evans. There is certainly a need to collaborate with Barnaby's efforts in such a way as to make attendees of the event in Washington D.C. feel a need or desire to visit Rhode Island.

d. The issue of naming the WaterFire event will have important implications for setting the tone and Rhode Island's involvement.

e. Commissioner Ken Yellis pointed out the need for a lead agency in fundraising efforts and Commissioner Ruth Taylor suggested that the commission work on marketing "pride of place" in grant seeking efforts.

f. The members reiterated the need for a grand announcement, to be followed by a series of smaller press releases. A suggestion was made that the Commission might consider making sponsors part of that large announcement if fund raising efforts are initiated prior to the announcement, as is being suggested.

g. The overall reaction to the designs submitted by Brian Jones was very positive, with agreement on some of the issues in the Charter room and hallway that were examined through design. The members present were especially responsive to the concept of the brochure that Brian Jones developed, and recognized the potential it could have in the solicitation of sponsors.

h. The attendees agreed that there is a need for the Executive Committee to meet on a regular basis, as often as every other week as we move forward.

i. The next meeting of the Executive meeting was set for December 3, 2012 at 10:00 A.M. at a location to be determined.

5. Commissioner Stevens adjourned the meeting at 12:00 PM